



March 2, 2004

Guilty plea in Providence bank robbery

James Silva, 37, whose address is not known, pleaded guilty today to federal bank robbery charges, admitting that he committed a robbery at a Citizens Bank branch on West River Street in Providence in October.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Silva entered before Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux in U.S. District Court, Providence. Silva, who is also known as John Paliotti, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 25.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein said that, if the case had gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on October 15, at a Citizens branch located in a supermarket at 333 West River Street, Silva handed to a teller a note demanding money and claiming he had a gun. Silva fled the bank with approximately \$5,400. A fingerprint on the note he left behind led Providence Police to Silva, who was arrested two days later.

The statutory maximum penalty for bank robbery is 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that take into consideration on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Providence Police and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Goldstein is prosecuting it.